

The Grace of God

- *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. Eph. 2:8-9*
- There are two ways this passage is understood.
- Some take it to an extreme where God doesn't expect anything from us and those who teach that we must work in any way are accused of not believing in the grace of God.
- For them the Christian life demands very little.
- God's grace will cover anything that I am not able to do.

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- *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. Eph 2:8-9*
- The truth is not found in extremes.
- The grace of God was not given so we work less.
- It was given so we would work harder.
- It is the perpetual 2nd chance to do better.
- Without the grace of God there is not hope. You sin and you die and once you are dead it is eternal
- With the grace of God the sins of yesterday are forgiven and now we have a new opportunity to work harder.

The Instructions of Grace

- *For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, Titus 2:11-13*
- It is evident from this verse that the grace of God had a far different purpose than to make it easier.
- God's grace is an instructor and a teacher.
- Because we are forgiven each time we confess, we have no excuses but to try harder each day.
- *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness 1Jn. 1:9*

The Instructions of Grace

- *For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, Titus 2:11-13*
- Instructions:
 - 1. deny ungodliness and worldly lusts.
 - 2. Live soberly, righteously and godly in this present age.
- If this is what grace is teaching to us, then it seems evident that we have to work to deny

The Instructions of Grace

- *teaching us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, If this is what grace is teaching to us, then it seems evident that we have to work hard to deny*
- *Jesus thought we should work hard and sacrifice*
- *And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. 45 And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell. 47 And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, 48 'where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched. Mk 9:43-48*

Paul Thought the Same Way

*Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal **for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.** Phil 3:12-14*

Each day was a new opportunity to do more and become more. Even with God's grace he worked hard.

Paul passed it on to us

- Therefore *let us, as many as are mature, have this mind;* and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. 16
Nevertheless, *to the degree that we have already attained,* let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind. 17 Brethren, *join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.* Phil. 3: 15-17

Paul was Not Alone

- **Peter** 2Pet 1:3-11 Add to you faith..
- **Joshua** Josh 1:8 Think, talk, observe
- **Jesus** Jn. 13:3-18 Blessed if you do.
- **Sermon on Mount ...** Do build on rock
- **Great Cloud** **Heb 11**
- **JesusMoses** Heb 11:24-29
- **Timothy** 1Tim 4:15-16 give entirely to them

The Upward Call

- 1 Pet 2:2
- *as newborn babes, long for the spiritual milk which is without guile, that ye may grow thereby unto salvation;*
- Eph 4:22-24
- *put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,*
- *be renewed in the spirit of your mind,*
- *put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.*

The Upward Call

- 1 Cor 3:1-3
- *could not speak to you as to spiritual*
- *but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ.*
- *fed you with milk, not meat; for you were not yet able (to bear it): no, not even now are you able;*
- *you are yet carnal:*
- Gal 5:19-23
- *Lusts of the Flesh/Fruit of the Spirit*

The Upward Call

- Heb 5:12-14
- *by reason of time ought to be teachers you have need someone teach you rudiments.*
- *have need of milk, not of solid food.*
- *who partake of milk without experience of the word is a babe.*
- *But solid food is for full grown men,*
- *Those by reason of use have senses exercised to discern good and evil.*

The Upward Call

- Phil 3:12-19

- *not already obtained, or made perfect.*

- *press on to lay hold of what Jesus laid hold of me*

- *not yet laid hold: one thing: forget what lies behind, stretch forward to what lies ahead.*

- *press toward the prize of the upward call.*

The Upward Call

- Phil 3:12-19
- *As many as are mature thus minded:*
- *otherwise minded, God will reveal to you*
- *whereunto we have attained, let us walk.*
- *Be imitators of me*
- *mark those who so walk*
- *as you have us for an ensample.*

The Upward Call

- Gal 2:20

- *I have been crucified with Christ;*

- *no longer I that live,*

- *but Christ living in me:*

- *life I now live in the flesh I live in faith,*

- *in the Son of God, who loved me,*

- *and gave himself up for me.*

- **Goal we stretch for but can never truly reach**